



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Answers Frequently Asked Questions About Tomorrow's Election

SACRAMENTO, CA – With less than 15 hours to go before the polls open tomorrow, Secretary of State Bruce McPherson provides answers to:

Frequently Asked Questions About the November 7th General Election

Q: When will we know the results of tomorrow's election? What might cause the results to come in late?

A: Sometimes in close races, the results will not be known for days, sometimes weeks. There are three types of ballots that need verification before they can be counted: absentee, provisional and write-in ballots. Over the past few elections, we have seen a steady increase in voting by mail and we expect to see this trend continue. The Secretary of State's Office will be updating the website <http://vote.ss.ca.gov> as results come in.

Q: How many Californians are eligible to vote in tomorrow's election?

A: There are 22,652,190 persons of voting age and eligibility in California; of those, however, 15,837,108, or 69.91%, are registered to vote in tomorrow's election.

Q: How many absentee ballots have been issued to voters?

A: Based on reports from 54 of California's 58 counties, 5,216,421 absentee ballots have been issued to voters.

Q: How many absentee ballots have been returned so far?

A: As of the morning of November 6, 2006, according to reports from counties, the total number of absentee ballots returned was 2,123,807 (40.71% of those issued).

Q: How many polling places/precincts will be open tomorrow?

A: As of November 4, 2006, the total number of statewide reportable precincts was 25,229. This figure can change up through Election Day.

Q: How many poll workers will be working at those locations?

A: There will be an estimated 100,000 poll workers working at the polls on Election Day.

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Q: Why are more of California's counties using electronic voting systems this election than in previous elections?

A: The federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) required some changes to the types of voting systems used in federal elections. Using electronic voting systems assists California in complying with this new federal law. Electronic voting systems also allow voters with disabilities to cast a ballot privately and independently, another of HAVA's chief directives.

Please click on the link for full details:

http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/voting_systems/voting_systems_faq.pdf

Q: If my county is using an electronic voting system, will there be a paper trail of the vote I cast?

A: All electronic voting machines used after January 1, 2006, must have an accessible voter-verified paper audit trail. All voters voting on an electronic voting machine should review and verify their ballot choices on this printed paper record prior to finalizing and casting their ballot. Once the ballot is cast, this paper record of the ballot is retained inside the voting machine as part of the election audit trail to verify the accuracy of the votes recorded. In accordance with California law, voters do not get a printed paper record of their vote choices.

Q: How do I find what kind of voting system is being used in my county and how do I find out how to use it?

A: To view a chart of what voting systems each county uses, please click on the following link:

http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/voting_systems/systemsinuse_asof92706.pdf

For instructions on how to vote using your county's voting system, click on

http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/voting_systems/ca_map_counties3.html

Q: Which counties are using new voting systems this election?

A: To compare voting systems used in prior elections, please click on the following links:

June 6, 2006 Gubernatorial Primary Election:

http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/sov/2006_primary/p22votingsys.pdf

November 8, 2005 Special Statewide Election:

http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/sov/2005_special/sov_pref_pgx_voting_systems.pdf

Q: What security measures are in place this election to be sure that votes are secure?

A: To view a full explanation of security measures in place, please click on the following link: http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/voting_systems/e_voting_factsheet.pdf

Q: When, by law, must the election results be certified?

A: Certification by the counties is due no later than the 28th day after election, and certification by the Secretary of State will occur by the 39th day after election.

Q: How do I contact my local elections official?

A: For a complete listing of county elections officials and contact information, please click on the following link: http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_d.htm